

AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

THE VALUE OF CROP RECORDS.

Items To Be Considered in Determining Cost of Production.

There is but one way known of determining the cost, income, and profit of any individual enterprise on the farm, and that is by keeping a record of the different operations and transactions. Knowing these, the farmer is able to determine the cost of production, and the results of his operations. It can not be done in the management of labor, machinery, and wages for more efficient production. A large number of farmers have a mistaken idea that a single farm enterprise, as for instance dairy milk production, is the sole productive account of the farm, and that all produce on the farm should be charged to this account at cost. When figured in such a manner, the results give no information that would be helpful in improving the methods for increased profits.

A record of the various operations in growing a particular crop can be referred to at any time, and notes on the items of material used are of considerable importance. The farmer desires a true insight into their own conditions. A record of the hours of labor and the items of material furnish sufficient data for figuring the cost of production according to the wages and prices at any particular time.

Items to be considered in determining cost of producing crops like corn, potatoes, and small grains are as follows:

1. Cost of work previously done, including plowing, manure, manuring, seed and seedling of crop plowed under as green manure.

2. Fertilizers at entire cost if less than 1000 pounds is applied. Cost of lime at 20 per cent the first year. If more than 1000 pounds was applied the year before charge twenty per cent of the cost.

3. Seed at market price.

4. Charge 5 per cent of agricultural value of land.

5. Charge five cents per hour for use of horse machinery.

6. Man and boy labor at the prevailing rate for each hour spent on the crop.

7. All other costs caused by the crop.

8. Interest on costs until money is returned at a 6 per cent rate for the period of the crop.

9. When manure has been applied for the crop this year, charge 40 per cent of the value; and if applied last year, charge 20 per cent.

This is a good time to make a note of the above items, which together with the labor record should go a long way in helping to solve the problem of the farm business.

B. A. McDonald, Connecticut Agricultural College.

HOW TO WHITEWASH.

Whitewash can be applied with a large brush, but best results are secured by using a sprayer.

An ordinary hand-spray pump is well adapted for spraying the interior of a building.

Whitewash is economical to make and use. Half a bushel of unslaked lime is required. The lime is slaked with warm water and kept covered during the night.

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GRAPE PLUME MOTH.

Many gardeners have had trouble recently with the grape plume moth, which is a beautiful insect in its larval stage.

The trouble occurs when the caterpillar finds its way into the grape vine, where it feeds on the leaves and fruit.

The caterpillar is a small, greenish, white-haired insect, and is very destructive to the grape vine.

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CARE OF BROODY HENS.

Much Lost Time Can Be Overcome By Proper Care.

Broodiness of the American hen causes a loss of millions of dollars worth of eggs in the United States each year.

Of course, broodiness cannot be avoided or prevented, except perhaps, to a slight extent by selection and breeding, because it is a part of Nature's plan of reproduction.

The average broody hen sits on her eggs for a period of 21 days, and during this time she is very much reduced in any flock by proper care.

Figures from three years' records at Storrs, Conn., show that 50 per cent of the hens of the American breeds, including Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, and Wyandottes, go broody 2.7 times each, and that the average length of time lost during each period is twenty-one days.

The average length of time lost by all hens included in the American class was thirty-three days per hen per year.

The Leghorns did not show as great a tendency to go broody as did the American breeds, but they were just as persistent and difficult to break up with the old brood.

Only 10 per cent of the Leghorns went broody; they averaged going broody 1.5 times each, and the average time lost during each broody period was twenty-two days.

The average time lost by all Leghorns was three days per hen each year.

The length of time lost through broodiness by the contest hens is, perhaps, the minimum which anyone could expect to produce.

It is possible to keep in very close touch with each individual, and every possible effort is made to break up the broodiness.

The two important factors in breaking up a hen are that she be confined where she cannot get back to the nest, and that she be kept busy.

A coop or a crate with a slat or wire bottom seems to be most satisfactory for this purpose.

During the period of broodiness, the hen is very nervous and easily excited.

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EDWARD WEISGRABER IS

RECOVERING IN HOSPITAL.

Norwich Boy Escapes from Captivity Among the Germans.

The following letter written in England on behalf of Edward Weisgraber of this city, tells of his capture by the Germans, escape after being used as an interpreter, his subsequent wounding in action, and his present stay in a hospital, where he is hoping for the chance to get back again on the fighting front.

England, April 20, 1918.

Dear Sir:

Will you please insert in your daily paper the following letter written in England on behalf of a young man, Edward Weisgraber, by name, and a native of your beautiful city of Norwich.

He is comfortable in a hospital somewhere in France and wished to let his folks and friends know that he is still alive and well.

The many friends and relatives of Edward Weisgraber, a native of Norwich, will be pleased to know that he is still doing his bit for his country and is in hopes of being able to stay in the big show till the game is over.

At present, being a minor casualty, he cannot carry on his work as an interpreter in prison camps, as he has done for the past few months, but all may rest assured that he'll come in good and strong at the finish.

Mr. Weisgraber has had the good fortune, as he himself expresses it, to be alive after going through two terrible incidents and through engagements in France. Having tired of life on the briny deep, he gave it up and enlisted in the foreign legion, where he soon became a popular idol with his brothers in arms for his square jaw, all things and, best of all, the daring he showed at the battle of Arras.

When, with a small party of other privates, he was after a game fight, taken prisoner by the Fritzes. Being something of a linguist, and exceptionally handy with the German language, he soon won the confidence of his guards, and it seems as though it was fate that selected him to win enough confidence of his captors to be given a position of trust in a camp to seek information with a promise of parole, should he be successful in reporting desired information.

He did not fail. He was there, done, he tells no one, but three weeks later he showed up, somewhat battered and played out, at an allied camp and gave up much valuable information to our officers. After being rested, fed and cleaned up, with the ever-ready smile by which he was known to many, he reported himself ready for the next move.

When the big show came a few days later Mr. Weisgraber was on the first line and using his own phrases, he said: "It was great, all that I remember of it—he'll let me loose. We have Heine a surprise and he'll get some more right along from now on. He wanted to fight, and he sure did find more than he bargained for. I felt a sharp pain in my side just as we were going out, and the next I knew I was in the hospital. The medical staffs are wizards in their work and the service is wonderful. Just can't be beat anywhere in the world."

Mr. Weisgraber wishes to be remembered to all those he left "over there" and to let his parents and friends know he was still alive and kicking. He took this means of doing so. His farewell words to me, the writer of this letter for him, were: "Tell them not to worry, keep a stiff upper lip, and have this year's Christmas dinner ready at noon, because I expect to eat at home this year on the 25th of December at the latest."

Note: Hoping your space is not so limited that my letter to his friends and folks cannot be printed, I will join you at least once in the happy knowledge that Fritz has bitten off more than he can chew, and the allies will soon have him in reasonable rations from our hands.

Very respectfully,

P. E. WALTERS.

3rd Reserve, England.

Arrives in France.

Daniel Williams of the Medical Corps, who has been at Fort Rham Allen, has arrived in France, according to word received on Tuesday by his sister, Mrs. Coburn of 64 North street.

Spraying Elm Trees.

Tree Warden H. E. Davis was busy with his men on Tuesday in spraying the elm trees in the Boswell Avenue park.

Pig Members to Get Prizes.

Will Be Awarded at State Fairs and in County Exhibits.

The boys and girls of Connecticut who take up pig club work as part of their production program will not only receive the pleasure of producing something useful in the way of food, but will also have the pleasure of competing for substantial prizes which are to be distributed to the Connecticut Pig Club members who put their pig club into competition at the various fairs and county exhibits.

The prizes are as follows: First prize, \$10; second prize, \$5; third prize, \$3; fourth prize, \$2; fifth prize, \$1; sixth prize, 50 cents; seventh prize, 25 cents; eighth prize, 10 cents; ninth prize, 5 cents; tenth prize, 2 cents.

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BE PATRIOTIC
Trim Up For Memorial Day

Dennison's Crepe Paper in many patriotic designs; Streamers in the national colors; Patriotic Lunch Sets and Napkins.

Your Kodak will preserve the scenes of Memorial Day for a great many years. We will develop and print your films with promptness and accuracy. All kinds of Photo Supplies.

The Cranston Co.

FIGHT THE FLY

By P. G. HOLDEN

If one of these fine mornings, during these days of war, you should see an army of soldiers, full uniform and heavily armed, parading down the street, what would you do? What would any loyal American citizen do?

You might not be greatly frightened at one soldier but would you let him go unmolested if you knew that he would find a way, by the middle of June, of bringing to this city a million of his comrades who would be with the middle of July he would have nearly 26,000,000; by the middle of August 33,000,000, and by the middle of September fully 5,000,000, 000,000 of his fellow soldiers in your midst?

Enemy Is In Our Midst.

Yet, perhaps you saw an enemy this very day—not a uniformed soldier, but a fly, a pest, a nuisance, a plague.

The rapidly with which flies multiply is amazing. One wintered-over female fly on April 1 will, unmolested, produce a progeny by September 10 of 5,388,720,000,000, according to the calculation of Dr. Howard, chief entomologist at Washington, D. C.

If every wintered-over fly were killed when it first appeared in the spring the fly menace would soon be solved. To kill one fly early in the season is as effective as killing millions in the midsummer.

They kill thousands of people every year. Most of the victims are little children. Typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, summer complaint, tuberculosis and other intestinal diseases may be spared by germs carried by the fly.

We must begin now to fight the fly. We must not let one escape if we can help it. Mankind has no more deadly enemy than the fly. They kill thousands of people every year. Most of the victims are little children. Typhoid fever, cholera, dysentery, summer complaint, tuberculosis and other intestinal diseases may be spared by germs carried by the fly.

It is better to prevent sickness than to wait until the disease has been contracted and then attempt to cure it. It is safer and easier to keep flies out of our homes by proper screening, by trapping flies and by destroying their breeding places than to get them out when they once are in.

In exterminating the fly, the first and most important step is the rid of its breeding place. The manure pile is the most prolific source of the fly nuisance. In this they are born, on it they feed, over it they crawl as mature flies.

Manure should never be left to stand in a pile. It leaches away, loses its value as fertilizer, provides breeding places for flies.

Wherever you find flies you will find filth. The garbage can or swill barrel should be kept covered. A pig pen should be kept dry and clean and the stock manure washed. Food should not be left exposed. Milk should be kept covered.

We should keep our premises clean. We should screen our homes and business buildings. We must destroy the breeding places of the fly, and we must starve him. We should organize against the fly, just as we would organize against an invading army. A movement to destroy the fly is an important step in a campaign of conservation. The fly is a menace to the conservation of food; to the conservation of health; to the conservation of human life.

A special fly campaign should be started in every community now—today. Everyone, the old and young, the schools, the churches, the newspapers, the city officials, the merchants, the bankers and professional men should co-operate.